



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GOVERNOR

SECRETARY

September 1, 1998

To: Group Leaders

From: Charlie Brown   
State Location & Surveys Engineer

Subject: Backing Accidents

Over the years this Unit has suffered from backing accidents. This type of accident is our most common recurring vehicular accident. Some have involved backing our vehicles out of parking spaces; some have involved backing our vehicles on roadways or shoulders. In any occurrence, these types of accidents are a problem. They cause damage, often to our vehicles, sometimes to others' vehicles, sometimes personal injury as well, and always they cause massive paperwork.

The Unit management has discussed this several times. We are hesitant to create policies such as AT&T and others (including several Divisions) who require a cone to be placed behind each parked vehicle. At the same time we realize that we as a Unit need to do something to reduce the occurrence of these accidents.

We encourage you as Group Leaders to discuss backing procedures with your staff. Evaluate backing procedures and needs. One suggestion was to "Back In, Pull Out". (Rather than pulling first into a parking place, back in if possible and drive out.) Another was to make everyone in the vehicle, not just the driver, responsible for the safety of the vehicle. (Passengers should help direct the driver when backing.) Short of establishing a Unit-wide policy, we encourage these and any other reasonable measures that you can take to reduce the number of backing accidents in the Unit.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or helpful suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact either your Area Engineer or me. We're all in this together.

CWB

cc: Area Engineers

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